

GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY—Theory and Practice—Second Edition—J. W. Klapman, M.D., Consultant, Downey Veterans Hospital, Diplomate Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Formerly Faculty, Northwestern University Medical School. Grune & Stratton, 331 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N.Y., 1959. 301 pages, \$6.75.

The second of Klapman's *Group Psychotherapy* (the first edition appeared in 1946) is a difficult one to evaluate. This is because, while it presents much that is of practical value and does reveal a sensitivity to the therapeutic needs of patients, the theoretical basis of the book is a confusing hodge-podge eclecticism. It contains elements of Learning Theory, Kurt Lewin's Field Theory, and Adlerian Ego Psychology, along with halfhearted acceptance of Psychoanalytic Theory.

The author grants the importance of psychoanalytic concepts of transference and resistance and then proceeds to redefine these concepts. An author certainly has a right to accept or reject any concept. However, to state that he accepts a concept, such as transference, and then to proceed to redefine it in such a way as to distort an already established meaning, only serves to confuse the newcomer in the field and to add semantic difficulties to existing problems. The concept of resistance also is so loosely used as to include any expressions of feeling which are not "positive"—as, for example, sibling rivalry in a group is referred to as an expression of "resistance." Frequently Freud is quoted out of context in a manner calculated to denigrate the importance of drives and defenses in group therapy.

The author points up the usefulness of group therapy in clarifying, and correcting distorted patterns of ego functioning, especially as they apply to interpersonal relationships. However, the "ego" the author refers to is conceptualized in terms of Adler, Horney, and Eric Fromm. The role of intrapsychic forces on ego functioning is minimized to the point where the author states that "affects may be the servant of perception rather than the other way around." To discuss ego psychology in 1959 without mentioning anywhere the contributions of Hartmann, Eric Ericson, and Rappaport is a serious shortcoming in a book dealing with current concepts of ego functioning, as they apply to group therapy.

Despite these weaknesses in theoretical orientation the book has value from a pragmatic viewpoint. The division of the book into chapters describing handling of patients with minimal, moderate, and finally with severe states of personality disorganization is a useful approach. The glaring distortions of more commonly accepted concepts of intrapsychic functioning are less apparent in discussions of treatment of moderately and severely disturbed individuals. This is because in such individuals one must focus on ego reintegration, and a suppressive, reeducative type of therapy, rather than an uncovering type, is indicated.

The ideas presented in regard to many technical procedures are discussed in a manner which would stir little controversy among experienced group therapists, and would be of value to the neophyte. These include the choice of patients for various types of groups, suggestions regarding indications and contra-indications, and some discussion regarding typical problems arising in group therapy, such as handling of initial hours, silences, post therapy hour get-together of patients, etc.

It may be of value to compare this book with another recent text on group therapy by Corsini. This author sharply delineates the differences between an analytically oriented approach to group therapy from other approaches, such as a Rogerian "client centered non-directive" approach utilizing actual transcripts of therapy hours to demonstrate the differences and similarities. Corsini avoids judgments as to

the superiority of one technique over the other, but the reader is able to get a clear concept of the various approaches without distortion.

For anyone seriously interested in learning what group therapy has to offer, Klapman's book would be of much greater value after one has first read a text such as Corsini's. Klapman's book does have a good index and a fairly comprehensive bibliography which enhance the value of the book.

MICHAEL ROSOW, M.D.

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DISTURBANCES IN GASTROINTESTINAL MOTILITY—Edited by J. Alfred Rider, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, California; and Hugo C. Moeller, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, California. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1959. 387 pages, \$13.00.

This book is the recording of a symposium oriented around the central theme of gastrointestinal motility. A large number of distinguished authors have contributed sections on subjects ranging from the basic physiology of swallowing to the therapy of ulcerative colitis. Some of the clinically important topics covered include the following: The treatment of constipation and diarrhea, gall bladder and biliary tract disease, malabsorption syndromes, infectious diarrhea, diarrhea in the young child, regional enteritis and postgastrectomy syndromes. There are transcripts of stimulating conferences on ulcerative colitis and functional constipation. The book summarizes a great deal of newly acquired information about basic aspects of gastrointestinal physiology and also much wisdom on certain practical aspects of therapy. In the opinion of the reviewer a few of the views expressed on certain controversial subjects, such as biliary dyskinesia (by J. Dudfield Rose) would not be universally accepted. Nevertheless, no one interested in a stimulating reappraisal of this broad subject could fail to enjoy reading this book and important data and references would be made available by having this volume in one's own library.

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A WAY OF LIFE AND SELECTED WRITINGS OF SIR WILLIAM OSLER—An Unabridged and Unaltered Republication of 1951 edition "Selected Writings of Sir William Osler" (Oxford University Press). Paperback edition published by permission of Oxford University Press by Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York 14, N. Y. 278 pages, paperback, \$1.50.

Now that few remain who knew Osler personally there has been a lively revival of interest in his general and historical writings. This takes the form of reprints of Osler's essays, volumes which include selections from his various writings, and even anthologies of quotations. It is interesting to see a reprint of selected writings of Sir William Osler, first collected in 1951, now reprinted by the Dover Publications in an inexpensive but pleasant format which makes possible a wide circulation among medical students and those who cannot afford expensive books.

The collection contains a wide sampling of Sir William's writings: historical essays, talks to students, bibliophilic material and so forth. On looking through the book one finds that these brilliant essays—coruscating with literary allusions—can not only be reread but their pertinence in this mechanistic age becomes even more impressive. Osler, it now seems clear—will occupy a permanent place in English belles lettres.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.